

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FCC CC Docket No. 96-45
Section 254(e), 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

Certification of
Ben Lomand Rural Telephone
Cooperative, Inc.

AFFIDAVIT

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I, Levoy Knowles, CEO of Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Company") do hereby certify under penalties of perjury that:

1. I am the CEO of the Company;
2. The Company is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state;
3. The Company is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37);
4. The Company is eligible for disbursements from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
5. The Company will utilize its USF disbursements received in 2004 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which it is intended.

Signature: Levoy Knowles Date: 8/21/03

Print Name: Levoy Knowles

Title: CEO

State of Tennessee, County of Warren

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary in and for the State of Tennessee,

on this day personally appeared Levoy Knowles, known to me to be the Declarant, who, being duly sworn, executed the foregoing instrument.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of August, 2003.

My Commission expires April 29, 2007.

Clara F. Byars
Notary Public

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TELEPHONE: (931) 668-4132 • WEBSITE: www.blomand.net
311 North Chancery Street • P. O. Box 670 • McMinnville, Tennessee 37111-0670

August 21, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
Section 254(e) Self-Certification of
Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Attached hereto is a sworn affidavit of Levoy Knowles, certifying that Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the "Company") is in compliance with the requirements of Section 254 (e) and the requirements established by the Commission in *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157) (released May 23, 2001) ("Order") and codified at 47 C.F.R. §54.314. Because the Company is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State, the Company makes this certification directly to the FCC as provided for in paragraph 189 of the Order and 47 C.F.R. §54.314(b).

A copy of this Certification is also being filed this day with the Universal Service Administrative Company at its Washington, D.C., offices.

Please acknowledge receipt on the duplicate "stamp and return" document attached for this purpose. All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filing should be addressed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Levoy Knowles", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Levoy Knowles
CEO

cc: Ms. Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company



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August 21, 2003

Kraskin, Lesse, & Cosson, LLC
Attn: Cliff Rohde
2120L Street, N.W., Suite 520
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Rohde,

Attached is our cover letter and signed affidavit for our Section 254 Self-Certification. Please file this document with the FCC and USAC and provide us with date stamped copies from these agencies. As per our telephone conversation earlier today, I am enclosing one original copy.

Should you have questions or need additional information you may contact at 931-668-6625.

Sincerely,

BEN LOMAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gail Woodlee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Woodlee
Controller

GW/bh